

CITY OF OBERLIN, OHIO

RESOLUTION No. R22-09 CMS

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT OPINION IN DOBBS V. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS FOR ALL IN OBERLIN, OHIO AS AN EMERGENCY MEASURE

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court, in the case *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturned the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision that has protected the freedom to seek an abortion without government intrusion since 1973; and

WHEREAS, laws restricting access to abortion, contraception, and healthcare deliberately, disproportionately, and unfairly target and negatively impact poor and working-class people and people of color whose access to reproductive healthcare is severely limited as a result of the inequity and inefficiency of the private, for-profit healthcare, and health insurance industries; and

WHEREAS, the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* disregards the fundamental human right to bodily autonomy and choice, and sets a legal precedent that will almost certainly be used to overturn other fundamental legal rights for all people, including marriage equality and access to contraception; and

WHEREAS, the Republican-controlled State Legislature of Ohio is currently poised to further restrict or ban access to abortions altogether in the wake of the United States Supreme Court's recent decision; and

WHEREAS, since its founding in 1833, Oberlin, Ohio has historically been committed to advocating for policies and practices that actively dismantle systems of discrimination, inequity, oppression, and racism. In addition, the residents of Oberlin have provided sanctuary for all people for many reasons, including African-Americans seeking refuge during slavery, for Blacks and women seeking education, for Japanese-Americans facing internment in war camps during WWII, and for undocumented immigrants in the facing deportation in the 20th and 21st centuries; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oberlin will continue to uphold the right of all persons to bodily autonomy by protecting their right to reproductive freedom, educating residents about their access to reproductive healthcare, and welcoming anyone in Oberlin to exercise their reproductive rights fully; in addition, Oberlin will act as a model for other cities seeking to uphold total reproductive freedom for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Oberlin, County of Lorain, State of Ohio:

SECTION 1 That the Oberlin City Council strongly condemns the U.S. Supreme Court's majority opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which effectively overturns *Roe v. Wade*. Oberlin City Council urges U.S. Supreme Court justices to retract their support for this opinion and to respect the bodily autonomy of women and LGBTQ people.

SECTION 2 That the Oberlin City Council also opposes legislation passed in Texas and other states that abridge a person's fundamental right to privacy by curtailing the right to abortion.

SECTION 3 That the Oberlin City Council hereby urges all Ohio municipalities to join its efforts in safeguarding and promoting access to reproductive healthcare and abortion rights, by passing resolutions urging the Ohio Legislature to take steps necessary to protect and promote reproductive healthcare and abortion rights instead of restricting them.

SECTION 4 That the Oberlin City Council urges the Ohio legislature to pass legislation safeguarding the right of Ohio residents to reproductive healthcare.

SECTION 5 That the Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to Governor Mike DeWine of the State of Ohio, to the Clerk of the Ohio House of Representatives and request that he forward a copy to each of the duly elected State Representatives; also forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Clerk of the Ohio Senate and request that he forward a copy to each of the duly elected State Senators; and finally forward a certified copy of this resolution to U.S. Congressman Jim Jordan of the State of Ohio.

SECTION 6 That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of the citizens of the City of Oberlin, Ohio, or to provide for the usual daily operation of a municipal department, to wit: to authorize a resolution indicating Oberlin City Council's opposition to the U.S. Supreme Court opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* and affirming and supporting reproductive rights and freedoms for all in Oberlin, Ohio within the time limitations provided by law, and provided that it is elevated to emergency status by the affirmative vote of at least five members of Council and receives the affirmative vote of at least five members of Council upon final passage, it shall go into full force and effect from and immediately after passage; otherwise, it shall take effect on the earliest date allowed by law.

APPROVED: 1st Reading: July 5, 2022

2nd Reading: _____

3rd Reading: _____

ATTEST:



BELINDA B. ANDERSON, MMC
CLERK OF COUNCIL



BRYAN BURGESS
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

POSTED: 07/06/2022

EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/05/2022